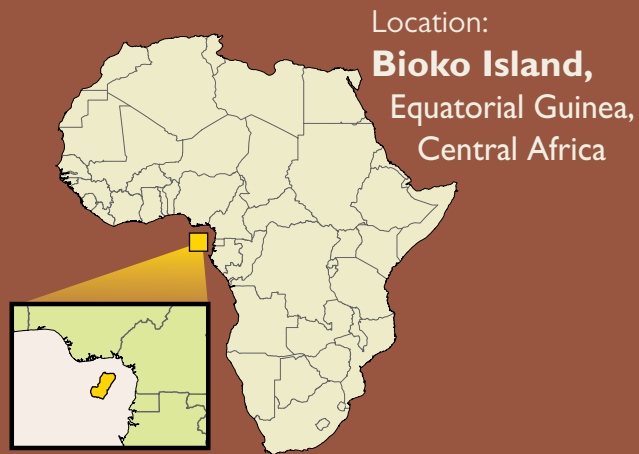


WORKING TO SAVE THE UNIQUE PRIMATES OF A TROPICAL ISLAND PARADISE

Project:

The Endangered Monkeys of Bioko



Project Leader:

Dr. Gail Hearn, Drexel University

Partners:



**Bioko Biodiversity
Preservation Project**



Drexel University

An Island Hotspot of Biodiversity

Bioko, part of the country of Equatorial Guinea, is a large volcanic island just off the coast of Cameroon. Since it has been separated from the mainland for thousands of years, Bioko is home to a unique and diverse array of plants and animals. The monkeys of Bioko are particularly unique. Bioko's forests contain nine different species of primates,



*A red colobus monkey, one
of Bioko's unique primates*

The large number of unique primates and other species on the island, in combination with relatively low levels of human disturbance, make Bioko an important area for conservation in West Africa.

including the impressive drill (a rainforest-dwelling monkey similar to a baboon), the leaf-eating colobus monkeys (two species, red and black), and the highly endangered Pruess's monkey (found only at high altitudes).



The rugged terrain of Bioko Island

Monitoring the Bushmeat Market and Wildlife Populations

Though conservation threats on Bioko are less than in many other parts of Africa, growing demand for meat from the forest is putting greater and greater pressure on the island's wildlife. Much of the wildlife research and conservation work currently being done on Bioko is carried out by the Bioko Biodiversity Preservation Project (BBPP; bioko.org), a collaboration between Drexel University in Philadelphia and the National University of Equatorial Guinea. Dr. Gail Hearn of Drexel University leads the project and has been involved with research and conservation on Bioko since the early 1990s. Dr. Hearn and BBPP engage in a variety of activities,